(c) steps taken to bring down agricultural imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The details of import of agriculture products during the last two years are as under:

Value in *Rs. Crore*

	2003-2004	2004-2005
Import of Agriculture Product	18825.9	20185.8
(% growth over previous year)	(17.2%)	(7.2%)

(c) Import duties on a number of items including edible oils (both crude and refined), tea, coffee, copra and coconut, wheat, rice, maize, pulses, spices, arecanut and apple have been increased in the last 5 years wherever necessary.

Facilities provided to increase export

†2271. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic and other facilities are provided by Government to the units set up in different zones established to increase export in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) estimated value of economic facilities provided to these units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The major incentives offered to units in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to promote exports include duty free import/ domestic procurement of goods, exemption from Central Sales Tax on supplies made from Domestic Tariff Area, exemption from service tax and 100% income tax exemption for the first 5 years, 50% for the next 2 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for the next 3 years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Access to raw materials, equipment and other inputs at international prices is a key factor in making export competitive. SEZs, therefore, intend to provide an internationally competitive duty free environment for exports. Since production inputs are either made available without payment of duty or the duty suffered are neutralized through drawback, unit-wise details of duty exemption etc. availed by the SEZ units are not maintained.

Setting up of beef industry

†2272. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sought opinion from Ministry of Environment and Forests regarding setting up of beef industry by the multinational companies in the country;

(b) if so, facts in this regard; and

(c) the reasons behind Government's decision to consider the proposal of setting up of beef industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) As per the Environment Impact Assessment notification 1994 and its subsequent amendments notified under the Environment (protection) Act, 1986 the beef industry is not listed in the 32 categories in Schedule II requiring environmental clearance. As such it does not attract the permission of the said notification.

Steps for industrial promotion

2273. SHRI MATIUR RAHMAN:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to State:

(a) What steps have been taken by Government for industrial promotion in the country; and

(b) what have been the results of these steps during the last two years and the current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Under the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.